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Senate

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Everloving God, we thank You for the rest and renewal of the weekend, for the promise that comes with this new week, and the hope we feel. We ask you to implant the eyes of our minds with trifocal lenses so that we may behold Your signature in the natural world around us, see the needs of people so we can care for them with sensitivity, and visualize the work that we must do. With minds alert and hearts full of gratitude, we honor You as our Sovereign. Thank You for meeting all the needs of our bodies, souls, and spirits so that we can serve You with renewed dedication. Now, as You hover around us as we pray, grant us wisdom throughout this day. In the name of Him who is our amazing grace. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HARRY REID led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. AKAKA). The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD.)

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 22, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable DANIEL K. AKAKA, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. AKAKA thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADERSHIP TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time to be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. As the Chair announced, we will be in a period of business until 2 p.m. At 2 p.m., we will resume consideration of the energy reform bill. There will be no rollcall votes today. Cloture was filed on the Daschle-Bingaman substitute amendment to the energy reform bill. The Senate will vote on cloture on the substitute amendment tomorrow morning. All first-degree amendments to the energy bill must be filed by 1:30 p.m. today.

EARTH DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Earth Day is today. Most of the celebrations took

place this weekend. People are interested in this program all over the country. Gaylord Nelson, a Senator from Wisconsin, came up with this idea. It has caught fire. People are more concerned about the environment than ever.

I indicated the other day the reason we have the Clean Water Act is that for example, the Cuyahoga River in Ohio kept catching fire. Yes, they had to put out the fire on the river on a number of occasions because it was so polluted. It was determined at that time that 80 percent of our rivers and streams in the United States were polluted; only 20 percent were not.

As a result of that river catching fire, Congress, and then President Nixon, decided something had to be done. The Clean Water Act was passed. It was imperfect legislation, but it has made great strides toward improving the waterways of this country. Some say the numbers have reversed, that now only 20 percent of the rivers and streams are polluted. That is probably inaccurate—it is probably more than that—but progress has been made.

Fish are returning to rivers that were once so polluted they could not survive in the water. There are rivers and streams now where people can catch fish and actually eat them; they are not toxic to eat.

People realize Earth Day should apply not only to places in the mountains where it is greener but more fragile habitat such as the desert, from where I come. The Mojave Desert is the driest and most unforgiving region in North America. Yet to most it is also one of the most beautiful, awe-inspiring places in America. It is fragile because of the extreme climate. It is not unusual to see extremes of 40 degrees from morning to night.

I have learned the Earth heals very slowly from the impact of people. I didn't realize that as a boy. I don't think a lot of people realized how fragile the desert was. I mentioned the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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